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## GRODNO BATTLE IS DESCRIBED BY AN EYE WITNESS

Capture by Poles Was Serious Blow to Soviet Army.

### POLES START NONE TOO EARLY

Their Advance Was Merely a Fore-stallment of the Bolshevik Offensive—Enormous Forces Were Concentrated on the Polish Front—Polish Artillery Firing Was Excellent, but Bolshevik Firing Was Weak—Boy Scouts Take Prominent Part in Fighting.

The battle of Grodno, in which the Poles won a decisive victory over the forces of Soviet Russia, is described by an eye witness in the London Times. Writing from Warsaw this correspondent says:

"The loss of Grodno was a serious blow to the Soviet government. The Bolsheviks had concentrated enormous forces on the northwest Polish front, those defending Grodno consisting of twenty per cent of Communists. There were eleven divisions of infantry, seven divisions of reserves, plus two cavalry divisions, and a new lately formed fifth army. The Polish advance was merely a forestallment of the Bolshevik offensive. Events have shown that it was started none too early. Delay might have been fatal.

"Grodno lies in the cup of a ring of hills which form a perfect natural defense. The town itself is built on the steep banks of the Niemen, and its numerous white towers, clustering in the midst of the thick forests which hide the slopes of the river, present a picturesque scene from the neighboring heights.

#### Watches Bombardment.

"On the eve of its capture I lay in the front line trenches of the attacking forces and watched the bombardment of the outer fortifications. They fell during the night, and the Polish artillery moved up to the heights encircling the city. The Polish firing was excellent. The Bolshevik reply was weak, for although the aim was not

had the percentage of 'duds' was high.

"On September 25 the Polish shells could be seen bursting right in the Bolshevik trenches on the outskirts of the town. Down below Polish bridging parties were forcing a crossing over the Niemen in face of machine-gun fire from the woods opposite. The Polish soldier will have none of Bolshevism, but he is willing to give the professed Communist his due as a fighter. Picked Communist regiments were defending these woods and defended them well.

"As soon as dusk fell the Bolshevik forces deserted the town. At midnight of September 25 the first Polish troops entered the outskirts. I followed them in the early morning. The last time I passed through Grodno, in July of this year, it was a bright and flourishing town. When I reentered it after ten weeks of the blessings of 'proletarian culture' it was a city of the dead. The haggard, haunted faces of the inhabitants, the filth, wanton destruction and desolation told their own tale. The walls were beplastered with endless propaganda posters and the worn-out revolutionary watchwords of which Russia is sick unto death.

#### All Papers Destroyed.

"The first place I visited was the late premises of the Extraordinary commission. Its headquarters were in a small lodging in the center of the town. The tables, chairs and curtains had all been carted away. Of the furniture there remained nothing but two smashed cupboards whose empty drawers were lying about the floor. All papers had been carefully burnt and the ashes lay in heaps about the stoves.

"Among the scraps on the floor which I succeeded in piecing together the only document of interest was an order signed by one Nikolaev that the large number of deserters from the Red army were to be shot mercilessly. From these rooms the order went forth to shoot all suspected of favoring the White guards. Poles, Russians and bourgeois Jews alike were shot on his charge. Among the bourgeois Poles were an engine driver and stoker who refused to drive a train load of ammunition against the retreating Poles. In some cases inquiries were held to try the 'counter-revolutionists. Some of the accused were acquitted, the inhabitants explained, but as they had already been shot, it was rather too late.

"The work of spreading the proletarian gospel dictated by Moscow was carried out by the 'Karl Marx club,' the headquarters of what is known in Soviet Russia as the 'Cultural and Enlightenment Committee.' Notices of concerts and meetings still remain on the walls of the rooms.

#### Communist Culture.

"I asked neighboring dwellers if they could tell me in what the Communist culture and enlightenment consisted. They said they did not know unless it was the revels and orgies which had frequently taken place in the 'Karl Marx club,' lasting into late hours of the night. I visited several of the hotels and premises of Soviet institutions. Everywhere the same scene of

defilement and wanton wreckage met the eye.

"I was greatly struck by the presence among the Polish troops which took Grodno of a considerable number of Boy Scouts. These scouts took a prominent part in the actual fighting. The company I met numbered seventy scouts, aged from fifteen to nineteen. It had originally numbered 140, but had already lost half its members in killed and wounded. They were accompanied by Girl Scouts, who performed sanitary and Red Cross work.

"The rank and file of the Red army form a marked contrast to the Communist regiments which defended Grodno. Polish aeroplanes fly over the Bolshevik lines and distribute large quantities of 'prisoners' passes,' telling the Red army men that if they come over with these slips of paper they will be well received and well fed. These 'prisoners' passes' have been a great success.

"I have spoken to many of the Red prisoners and their story is always the same. They are mobilized at the point of the bayonet. If they hide in their home woods their wives and families are arrested. They are sent down to the front in locked box cars.

"One group of twenty men from the district of Smolensky, belonging to the fifth division, whom I met on the road a few hours after their capture, said their journey to the front took four days, during which time they were given no food or drink, nor were they let out of the train.

"In the end they ate the trampled scraps and leavings of fish heads, bones, etc., which they had thrown on the floor the first day. At the front their rations were four vobla (a most unpalatable fish) for two days. Everything else they were told to seize from the peasants.

"They were given rifles only just before the attack, when a machine gun manned by Communists was placed behind them, and they were warned that if they did not advance they would be mown down.

"The Communists had told them if they were taken prisoners the Poles would beat, starve and torture them. None the less, they seized the first opportunity to hide in the woods during the attack and desert, because (to use their own words) 'nothing could be worse than their Communists.' They were delighted at their reception by the Poles, and expressed intense satisfaction at having been given two solid meals already that day.

"Among the various papers I picked up in Grodno was one headed 'Down With the Retreat!' 'Poland Must Be Smashed to Atoms' runs this proclamation. 'The tide has already turned. Not only are we no longer on the defensive, but we are preparing our great blow and have even begun our offensive. . . . We are mobilizing all our Communists and shall shortly be victorious on all fronts.' Of late I have many times recalled to mind the parting words of Comrade Axelrod to me at Kovno. 'Give my regards to Pilsudski,' he said sarcastically, 'and tell him we shall meet him very soon—in Warsaw.'

### NEEDS NEW TOWN NAME

Place Where John Brown Was Tried and Executed Offers Prize.

The town council of Charles Town, historic seat of Jefferson county, West Virginia, famed as the place where John Brown, insurrectionist, was tried, condemned and hanged, has offered \$50 as a prize to the person who will submit the most acceptable new name for the town. The similarity of Charles Town and Charleston has resulted in all sorts of confusion, and merchants, manufacturers, farmers and people generally of Charles Town have come to the conclusion that the name should be changed.

The general assembly some years ago authorized the name to be divided into two words "Charles Town," but railroad, postal and telegraph officials and clerks continued to make mistakes. Corpses intended for interment at Charles Town have been frequently shipped to Charleston, the state capital. A large manufacturing concern has refused to locate in Charles Town because of the confusion.

### SHE'S YOUNG AGAIN

Actress rejuvenated by Thyroid Gland Treatment.

"I feel I could jump over the house," said Connie Edds recently. She was for many years the principal actress at the Gaiety theater in London, afterward going to America. Everybody has been struck with her youthful vigor despite her fifty years. The secret of this rejuvenation is that she for four months has been taking a thyroid gland treatment.

She has taken altogether twelve injections of the extract. She is overjoyed at the result, although she confesses to a latent fear that she may slowly turn into an animal of the monkey type, which would have its compensations, she admits, since she ought then to have no difficulty in amusing her audience.

Speaking seriously she says she doesn't know what fatigue is. She feels ready to dance and sing all the time. She had been suffering with her heart, which is all right now despite the fact that she smokes fifty cigarettes daily.

Asked Parking Space for Baby Buggy. Feeling that a parking space for baby buggies was needed in Lima, O., William Sutton, an attorney, has asked the city council to pass an ordinance providing such a place.

### COATS FOR SPRING



Whoever is looking for a coat for spring will give this new arrival more than one glance and the second glance is apt to be a lingering if not a longing one. For there are several innovations, to be considered in this dignified garment. It hangs in almost straight lines, for one thing; and for another the sleeves are smaller and fit more closely than is usual. The collar is entirely new with not a trace of the popular muffer style in it and finally, tucks and plaits in the material serve for decoration. The cuffs and pockets are both made of the plaited fabric. As a rule coats for spring are about three-quarter length and modeled in simple designs. They depend upon smart lines and good looking materials, rather than on decorations, for distinction, and this makes them appropriate for street or travel. Yokes, plaits and large pockets, cozy fabrics and a flavor of sports wear, in style are winning approval.

#### Origin of Surnames.

No one can say with any certainty when the practice of taking a surname became general. The Greeks, Assyrians, Egyptians and other ancient peoples had no surnames; the later Romans had each one real personal name, to which they sometimes added a clan name or women, a family name or cognomen and a nickname or agnomen. The personal or Christian name was the only name recognized by early English law, surnames being words of description used to identify persons of the same name from each other. The Normans had introduced into England the habit of using surnames, but this was confined to the upper classes. By degrees even the common people began to be distinguished by names referring to personal characteristics, as Armstrong, rank or profession as Smith, father's name as Jackson, etc.

#### Economy.

Without economy none can be rich, and with it few will be poor.—Doctor Johnson.

### VAGUE ABOUT "RED" LEADERS

But Young Bolshevik Soldier Had Heard of Trotsky, and Incl. dentality of Lenin.

I have just had a talk with a Bolshevik soldier, captured by the Poles when he was participating in a bold scouting enterprise. He is a young man twenty-one years old, coming from one of the interior departments of Russia. He is illiterate and a confirmed Bolshevik.

Discipline, he said, was very good in the Bolshevik army; still they did not obey orders because they were orders, but "as a matter of conscience." The military forms of address had been abolished and even the officers were spoken to as comrades. Naturally the soldiers stand at attention before their officers; but that was because every soldier in the army follows the bidding of his conscience and "it would be foolish" not to stand at attention before one's commander.

He had never seen a general or any of the higher officers, but he knew the commander in chief was called Trot-

ky, and that there was another head man. He pondered a moment trying to recall who the second one was, and then suddenly remembered, "Lenine." He knew nothing more about him, and did not know the names of any other commander.

He kept saying "Everyone on the side is a Bolshevik," and seemed to be impressed with the great power and authority of the Bolsheviks. When asked who Trotsky was he replied, "A very popular Jew." "The Jews are much liked in the army. They never allow themselves to be captured. They hate the Poles so, and the Poles hate them so—and invariably murder them—that they prefer suicide to being made prisoners."—From the Vossische Zeitung (Berlin).

#### Peary's Flag Floats Away From Pole.

Intact in the ice, the American flag which Commodore Peary planted at the North pole has been found 400 miles away from its original geographical point, by Capt. Godfred Hansen, leader of the Amundsen auxiliary expedition. Ice drift carried the flag from the pole.

## "WHILE THEY LAST"

Before They'er All Gone Come in and Get Yours

### Breckenridge News Almanac

These Almanacs are carefully prepared for this zone and the data regarding sunrise, sunset, moonrise, moonset, tide table, eclipses, seasons, stars, weather indications, etc., are prepared along latest scientific lines; it is therefore more authentic than that furnished by ordinary almanacs.

Other features of the Almanac are as follows:

Business Laws.  
Interest Table.  
Weights and Measures.  
Postal Regulations.  
Household Information.  
Preservation of Fruits and Flowers.  
Boy Scout Page.  
Banking Law and Practice.  
Care of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Poultry, Automobiles.  
Doctor's Page, First Aid, etc.

All of the information contained in our 1921 Almanac is valuable for reference throughout the entire year and the Almanac should therefore be preserved until the end of the year.

There will be many times this year when you will have occasion to refer to our Almanac for information that is needed quickly, so it is urged that care be used to give it a permanent place in which it can be found without inconvenience.

Your friends may obtain Almanacs by calling at our office, and we make no charge whatever for them. These will be presented with our compliments, as long as the supply lasts.

### THE BRECKENRIDGE NEWS

45th YEAR

# Big January Clearance Sale!

Begins January 1st and Will Last One Month

We have made a big reduction in our entire stock and we urge you to come in and take advantage of the wonderful bargains we are offering.

Spend \$5.00 and Get a Set of Plates for 90c

### SHOES

Men's, Women's and Children's Shoes at a Reduction of 20 per cent

### RUBBER BOOTS

Boy's Rubber Boots \$2.00 to \$3.75  
Men's All Rubber Boots \$4.00 to \$6.00  
Men's Overshoes \$2.00 to \$2.90

### MEN'S WEAR

Red Diamond Overalls, per pair \$2.00  
Leather Gloves, \$2.50 value at \$1.85  
Men's Blue-Work Shirts 95c  
Nelson's Blue and Gray Socks 20c

### GROCERIES

Matches, 10c box for 5c  
Coffee, 25c grade at per lb 18c  
Flour \$1.40 to \$1.45  
Pumpkin, 3 cans for 25c  
Rub-No-More Washing Powder 5c  
Wash Soap, 3 bars for 10c  
Brooms 50c and 75c

### DRY GOODS

Unbleached Cotton, good quality, per yard 15c  
Bleached Cotton, per yard 20c  
Assorted Color Poplins, regular 60c value, at per yard 45c  
Blue Serge, \$1.50 value at per yard 75c  
All Wool Baby Caps, \$1.00 value reduced to 50c  
Outing Cloth, best grade, per yard 25c and 35c  
Ladies All Wool Sweaters, regular \$5.50 value, at \$4.50

### STOCK POWDERS

\$1.00 Seller, at 80c  
50c Seller, at 40c  
25c Seller, at 20c

### HARNESS

Horse Collars \$1.50 to \$8.00  
Bridles, work and riding \$1.50 to \$4.50  
Britchen, \$12.90 set for \$10.00  
Britchen, \$13.50 set for \$11.50  
Lines, 18 foot, \$7.75 value for \$6.50  
Lines, 16 foot, \$7.00 value for \$6.00

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